

"The Wolfe knowes, what the ill beast thinkes."

write to: Mothers News c/o Rhododendron Festival PO Box 29081 Providence RI 02909 • mn@mothersnews.net for more information on advertising, subscriptions, or distribution,

FACTS ABOUT FEBRUART

February is Cabbage Month, Mud Month, and in Finland it's the "Month of the Pearl", when snow melts on tree branches, forming droplets that freeze again as pearls of ice. February is a month of purification but not necessarily refinement, which makes sense when you remember that a regular pearl is just purified clam spit, which isn't very refined at all. February used to be the last month of the year until sometime around 450 BC, when it became the second. It's a weird but very interesting and rather helpful move to put purification at the second step rather than the last! It's the difference between 1, boiling down sap into maple syrup and 2, boiling sap down into maple syrup, pouring it on a hot stack of pancakes, eating the pancakes, chopping some wood, going for a walk in the woods, coming home, reading comic books, making lunch, someone calls, hi how are you, i'm fine.... No contest.

HOLIDAYS IN FEBRUARY

Groundhog Day is a real thing in which an animal arbiter is callied in to decide when spring is going to "really" start. Will it be on Imbolc (the feast day of Brighid), or will it be on the vernal equinox? Noncompatable measurement protocols, proper intersections.... this is the sort of othering bullshit that people cuss out their neighbors over-10th century politicos had it right to defer to a common garden pest and be done with it! This year Groundhog Day is going to take place on February 2nd. Exactly how this process works I've never really known.

BRING BACK THE SHAGGY THONGS

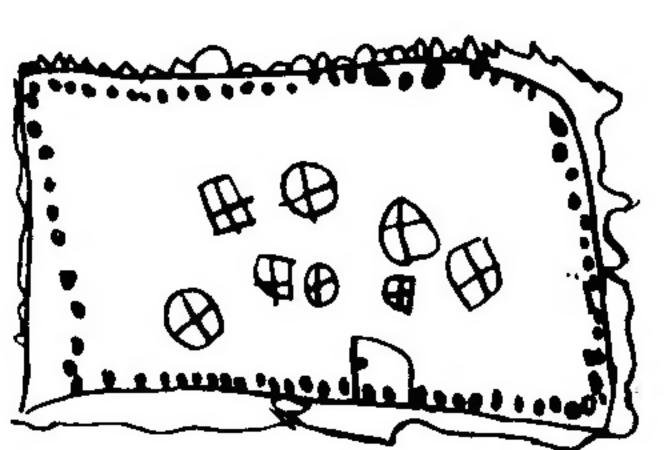
February is named after Februalia, an early Roman purification festival that took place at this time, and which was later incorporated into Lupercalis, which is cooler and crazier. Lupercalis traditionally takes place from the 13th to the 15th of February, when youths and magistrates run bare ass naked through the town and (according to Plutarch) "strike those they meet with shaggy thongs", which is good luck for those struck. Anyway this is what used to happen until the 5th century CE when Pope Gelasius I led a campaign against it, ending the luckiness of the people. Now they got Valentines Day, when people get hit by arrows and pay more for chocolate. How do towns get purified now? How is health and fertility released, and how are evil spirits averted? I DON'T KNOW.



The Romans named the Lupercalis after the cave where the she-wolf lived, you know, the she-wolf who nurtered and fed the two identical twin brothers that founded that particular city-state. You are free to take this as allegory but it would probably be more efficient if you took is as fact- it's pretty crucial to remember that where you were born and/or raised is important, in that it's important that you leave it, regardless of how cozy. As Martin Buber said in "Ten Rungs" (extrapolating upon God's address to Abraham), "First, get you out of your country, that means the dimness you have inflicted on yourself. Then out of your birthplace, that means the dimness your mother inflicted on you. After that, out of the house of your father, that means the dimness your father inflicted on you. Only then will you be able to go to the land that I will show you.". Let's not split hairs in re: God concepts or in re: statehood, but let's agree that if you want to go to the land (aka the direction of change), you have to leave home. And having left home, it's useful to go look at it periodically, even lovingly, like "wow, this was my favorite rock" but also "I was afraid to leave this dumb old wolfsucking cave?".

OK. So now that we've defined our terms, and we know, basically, what it is we're even celebrating (freedom from the known + general fertility), how do we even celebrate Lupercalia? To say that the literature is vague is an understatement, but here's what we have: there's some dog sacrifice, for which I think hot dogs (or barring that, Devil Dogs) would suffice. There's some goat sacrifice, but I think that's basically allegory too (GOAT = Greatest Of All Time). The important thing is that you race around almost naked, and you whip hangers-around with (ideally) a piece of the sacrifice (which in the case of Devil Dogs would be a cellophane wrapper? I don't know, you'll have to improvise something). So you can either race around, or if others are racing you can put yourself in harms way and try to get struck (which like I said is good luck and cures barrenness of all sorts). These are the ways to do it. Also laughter plays some sort of key role, that shouldn't be a problem. Also, this is kind of "duh", but "the origins [of Lupercalia] are lost in antiquity and may even predate civilization" (wikipedia), which basically translates to "the human race has never needed much of an excuse to run around naked and act like a werewolf, any old excuse will do.". Again, this is February 13th through the 15th. If you are in high school you might get expelled for this, unless you ask your English teacher if you can do an extra project relating to Julius Caesar (act 1), then you'll get extra credit, or at least there will be extenuating circumstances. Either way though they're going to start a file on you, but listen-luck, health, and general fertility doesn't just fall from the sky, you have to do weird shit for it. CAVEAT LUPERCALIATOR!

NB: if you don't have access to a "shaggy thong", you can roll up this newspaper and use it to strike people on Lupercalis, but you should also eat a small part of it too, transforming it into semisacrifice. and you don't have to be naked but you should at least be showing a little more skin than usual (for this time of year).



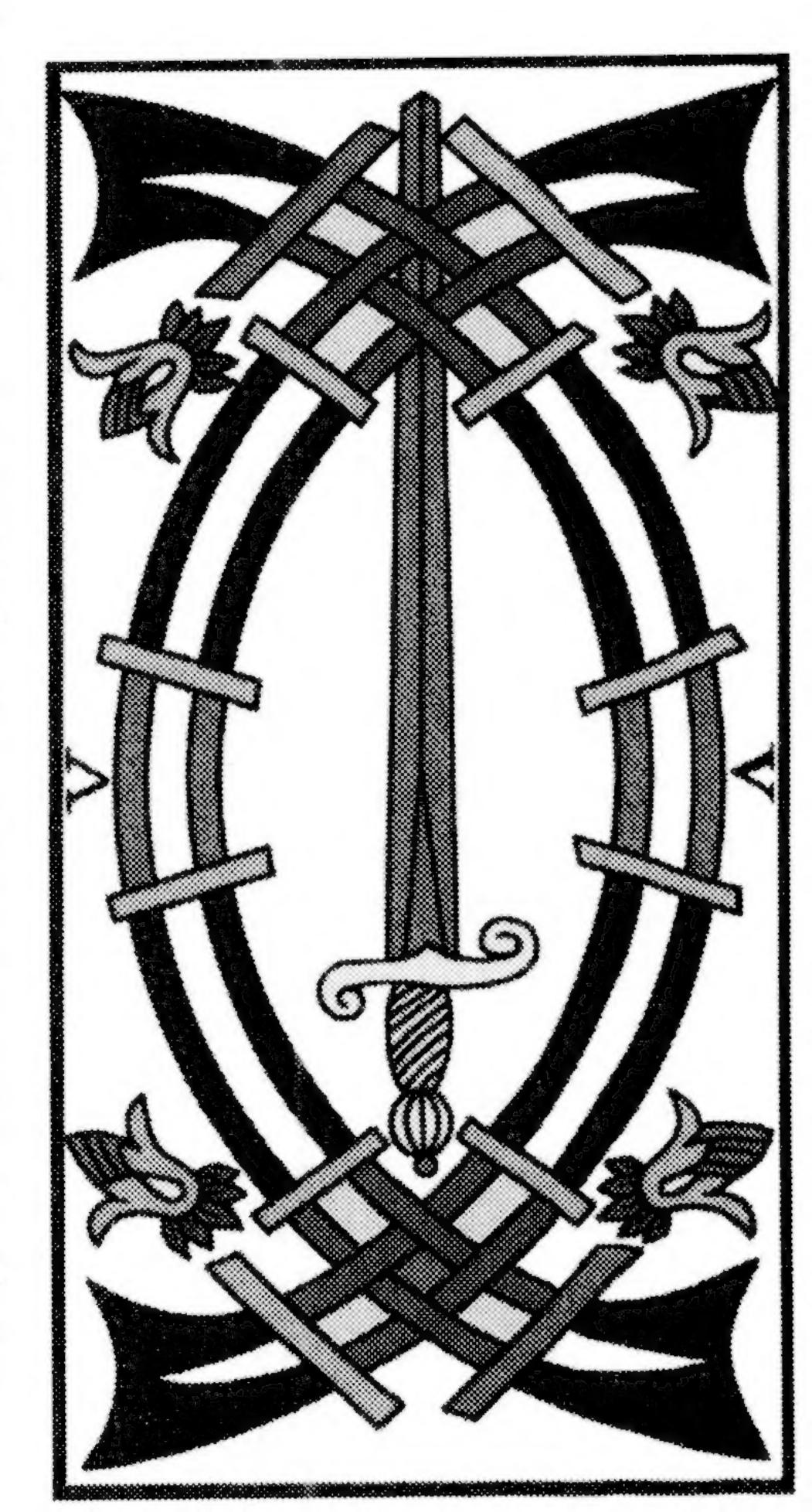


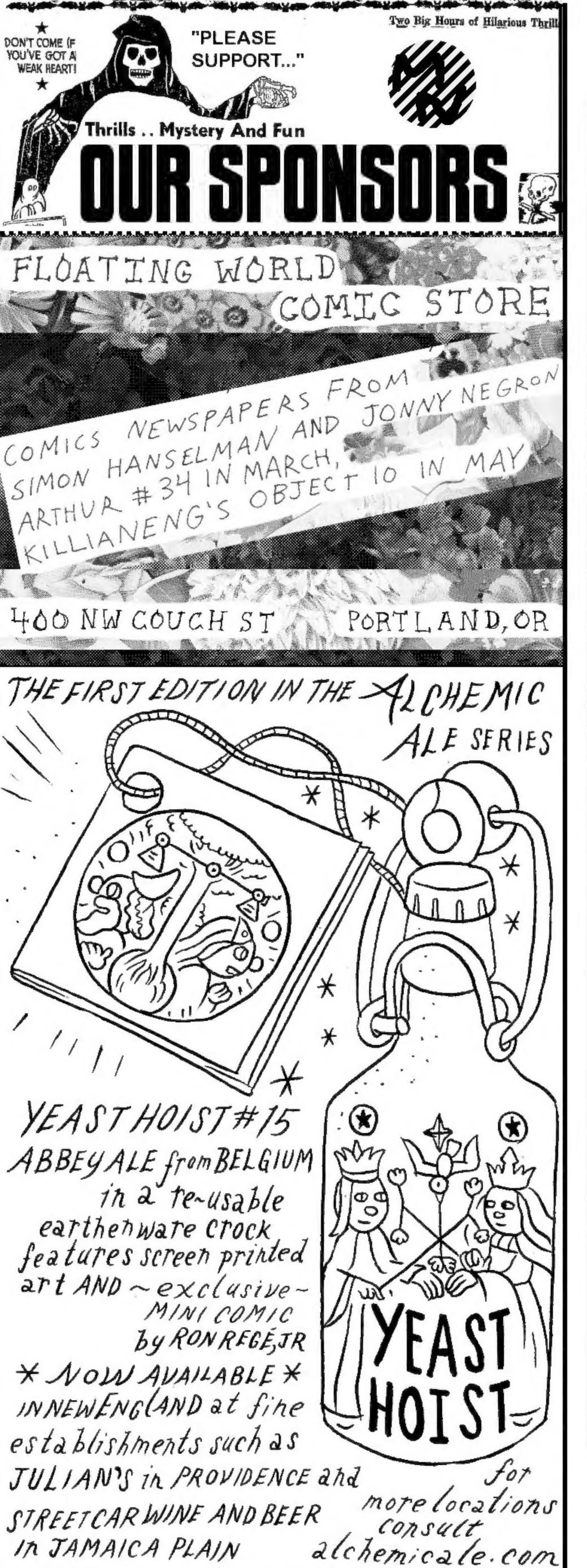
OTHER HOLIDAYS IN FEBRUART

February is also National Bird-Feeding Month. And February 12th is Abraham Lincoln's birthday- he was our 16th president, he was very skinny and tall (and possibly never stopped growing), he's on both sides of the penny (and both sides of the \$5 bill), and survives in the American vernacular as a component of Lincoln-Mercury, which is the lateera translation of the amalgamated God Thoth-Hermes.

And speaking of Hermes, February 10th is the Chinese New Year- happy year of the Snake everyone! The element ascribed by the Chinese Zodiac to this year is water, so the full story is that it's the year of the Water Snake. The last time we had a year of the Water Snake was 1953 (12 x 5 years ago) and what happened? Christine Jorgensen, the hydrogen bomb, Peter Pan (movie), polio vaccine, the first James Bond book, Mickey Mantle hits the world's longest home run, Aldous Huxley tries mescaline, Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay become the first people to reach the summit of Mount Everest, Watson & Crick discover DNA, the Korean War ends, the second Kinsey report is published, REM sleep is discovered, color TV.... Births in 1953 include Cyndi Lauper, Kim Gordon, Ikue Mori, and Hulk Hogan. Official Mothers News forecast for the year of the Water Snake: stuff like this.



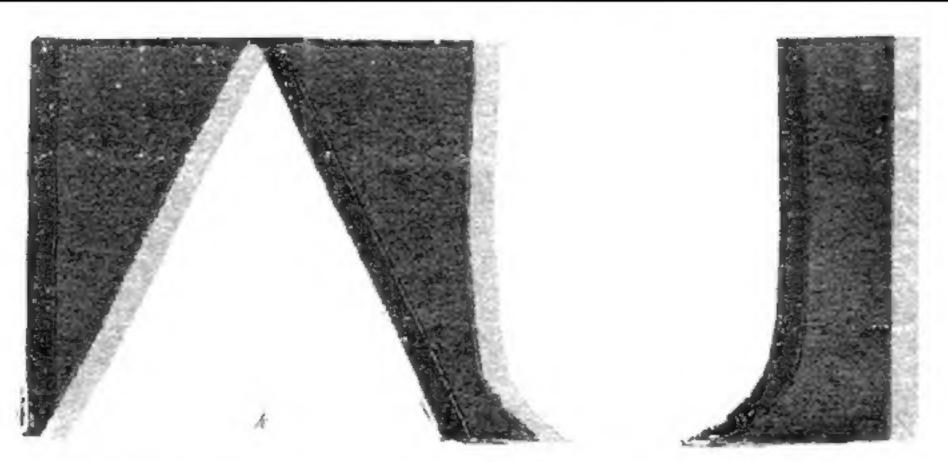








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EXAMPLE

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MUTHERS TOPTEN

"in no order"

10 . DIRT PALACE WINDOW- the Dirt Palace is a shared studio space in Olneyville with a big storefront window looking out on Olneyville Square. Every month(ish) they switch out the display in the window, allowing different artists in the community a chance to design an installation. No idea who did it last month but it was one of my favorites so far! It was a bubblegum pink background with a collection of soft and semi-soft sculptures hanging off it, not clustered, just arranged, evenly spaced, but not on a grid, kind of a sequinned hanging garden. Very nice! Also the pink painted background is a nice tie-in to whoever has been going around the neighborhood painting pink blobs over only the dumbest graffitti--I highly doubt the two are connected but it's a nice feeling! UPDATE- I asked around, the window is by J.R. Uretsky. Nice work J.R.!!! No guesses on who Pink Buff is, but good work there too!

9. NEW ISSUE OF SLICE HARVESTER- The third and last issue of the world's greatest hyperlocal pizza-afficianado magazine. This zine is not just a funny concept that's easy to describe (like 90% of all media nowadays), it's also fun to read, thoughtful, insightful, it's great! Colin rules!!!! I'm really looking forward to the next project.

8. PEOPLE (KIDS) WHO WROTE ON OR MADE MARKS IN OLD COMIC BOOKS - Because of you I have a great collection of readable copies of incredible old comics! A book that might be \$100 in mint condition is oftentimes \$2 if a kid scribbled on it enough. And I don't buy books to resell them, I buy them to read them! It's a wonderful arrangement, Also it's nice to think of: 1, the previous owners of things; and 2, a time before object preciousness. Also wrap your wig around this- a copy of MAN THING #1 that was \$.95 because it was written in, but it was written in (aka "signed") by THE WRITER (Steve Gerber (RIP))! I'll take it!

7. SMITHSONIAN COLLECTION OF NEWSPAPER COMICS - Incredible collection of newspaper comics from the 1890s up the 1970s. I had this book as a kid and loved it, now I buy it everytime I see it (usually for \$10-15) and give it away as a present. If you're interested in the history or possibility of comics (as art, commerce, or language), this book is basically essential. There's a companion book of comic book comics that also rules. I just looked on amazon, you can find both for under \$20 *easily*. No disrespect to contemporary publishers of reprints but anyone that might drop the now-standard \$30 on a handsome new book of old comics should secure these books first. This came out in 1977 and it's perfect (although I must note that, this being a collection of antique works, attitudes towards subjects of race, sex, and class are largely unenlightened and occassionally gross).

6. THE BONES BRIGADE DOCUMENTARY - Every skateboarding documentary thus far has been at least pretty good, this one is maybe the best of them all. Very interesting and inspiring- every character enlightening. If you're at all familiar with skateboarding of the 80s, you will come away from this movie with a rich and nuanced (and most likely quite different) understanding of all the characters at play (don't worry though- Rodney Mullen was and still is a super cute dude!). If you don't know any of these people at all, you will still have a great time. Lance Mountain, Steve Caballero, it's great. Alva and Duane Peters are incredible as indignant headshaking villians. Even Tony Hawk is revealed to be a real human person! Everyone in this movie cries, it's great.





America's Most Sworn-At Sandwich, Jan 2013

5. JODIE FOSTER RUMOR - I read somewhere that Jodie Foster and Whitney Houston used to go out and then they broke up and then Whitney stormed onto the set of Silence of the Lambs and punched Jodie's new girlfriend in the nose. I've never tried to fact check this, but if you do (somehow) please don't tell me "what really happened". It's not that I need this to be true, I don't. I would just prefer this to be wholly uncorroborated for eternity.

4. HYBRID MOMENTS by the MISFITS - I've been listening to this, ohhhhh 4 or 5 times a day for the past month while I do exercises. My new game is listening to Misfits songs and trying to convince myself that Morrissey wrote them, and vice versa.

3. VITAMIN D - don't lapse just because it's been 60 out- you can't underestimate those wintertime blahs! Lola says "everybody: vitamin D 50,000IU once weekly for 4-6 weeks, that's the replenishment dose, buy me a drink on the other side.". Will do, Lola!

2. WHO KILLED SPIKEY JACKET? (LP) - If you are a punk with a spikey jacket this record is mandatory. If you are not a punk and you wear a spikey jacket you should learn what you're signing up for. And if you like dumb dumb doo doo stupid punk, you should probably get this perfect (dumb) record. OI! IS A WAY OF LIFE (FOR PUNKS)!

1. MEATLOAF (singer) - It doesn't always end well, but I love when people do Meatloaf at karaoke and forget that 1, the song is 9 minutes long, and 2, it's a duet (and the other person doesn't show up until minute 7). A frantic search for a duet partner while physically and emotionally battered, communicating only with your eyes- Meatloaf kareoke is zen warrior training. Ya Kid K sent me a Meatloaf music video where he looks like a freaky witch and he kills cops in a spooky mansion and (obviously) rides off on a motorcycle with a beautiful babe. If any of your dreams seem impossible, improbable, intangible, or corny, remember, Meatloaf Exists.

BIOGRAPHY: ZEPPO MARX

Of the four Marx Brothers, Zeppo is the most mysteriouswidely regarded as "the unfunny one" in the movies, he was also reported (by Groucho, and others) to be the funniest one in real life. But was he unfunny in the movies, or do we just no longer understand the referent to his parody of "the smiley guy who basically just stands there and agrees"? In his time he had his fans- critics liked him and he was a favorite of Cary Grant and Rainer Werner Fassbinder. Is it just an easier narrative for us to think of him as the also-ran? ALSO, what about him being funnier in real life? Was his genius simply not transferable to screen? Could he only play to the room, not to the unblinking and unfeeling cinema eye?

These are historical points, and while I find them interesting (as a historian, and a Marxist), they are not immediately relevant- the performances of the other brothers have grown and changed in character, with nuance and shade- what is the appeal of Zeppo Marx today, to viewers who are watching Monkey Business right now? I would say the appeal of Zeppo today is that he is the inside-outside man: Zeppo is aware. Groucho, Harpo, and Chico act without hesitation, and exist as pure spirits in the eternity of animals. Zeppo, while never being the chattal the other three brothers feed on, had the unique distance to be both inside the action and aware of it as it transpired. The fact is, though Zeppo has a number of great lines (particularly in Monkey Business), he isn't especially funny on screen. But it's this exact feature that allows him this wonderful (or perhaps cursed) spot- he was inessential and had agency, and he was the funniest one in real life. "Zeppo" is pretty close to "zippo", and this is instructive-like Bo Diddley, Odysseus, and Satan (the devil) he has created power for movement by aligning himself with the concept of nothingness. In the supreme alphabet (a mneumonic device used by the Nation of Islam and countless east coast rappers), the letter Z refers to "Zig Zag Zig"- the oscillating path of Knowledge (outward) - Wisdom (inward) - understanding (outward). This is also instructive.

Zeppo was born Herbert Manfred Marx on February 25, 1901. He died in 1979. He was the youngest of the family, and technically the 5th Marx Brother (Gummo preceded him, and left the act when he was drafted in World War I). Before joining his brothers in the theatre he was a car thief and petty hood. After his turn in vaudeville and co-starring role in 4 of the 8 canonical Marx brothers movies, he went on to be an agent, rancher, fisherman, inventor, and millionaire. He quit being a movie star because he "didn't enjoy it".

THE AMBROSE BIERCE MEMORIAL WORD JUMBLE

by Ambrose Bierce before he died



IMETROOP, n. A stronghold of ovincialism.
OFUNTIMER, n. The kind of fortune that ever misses.
IANORDEMISE, n. An infraction onstituting no claim to admittance into best criminal society.

at's head drawn by Mike Leslie left handed

OFFICIAL INFO



Mothers News is a free monthly newspaper published in Providence RI by Rhododendron Festival. Managing Editor: Jacob Berendes. Managing Assistant: Ian Funn. Advertising Manager: Olivia Horvath. Art Director: Jackie H Curtiss. Contributing Editors: A Dripping Cloud Of Ghouls. Copyright 2013 THE EDITORS. Current obsession: jumping rope. Point of fashion: hat.

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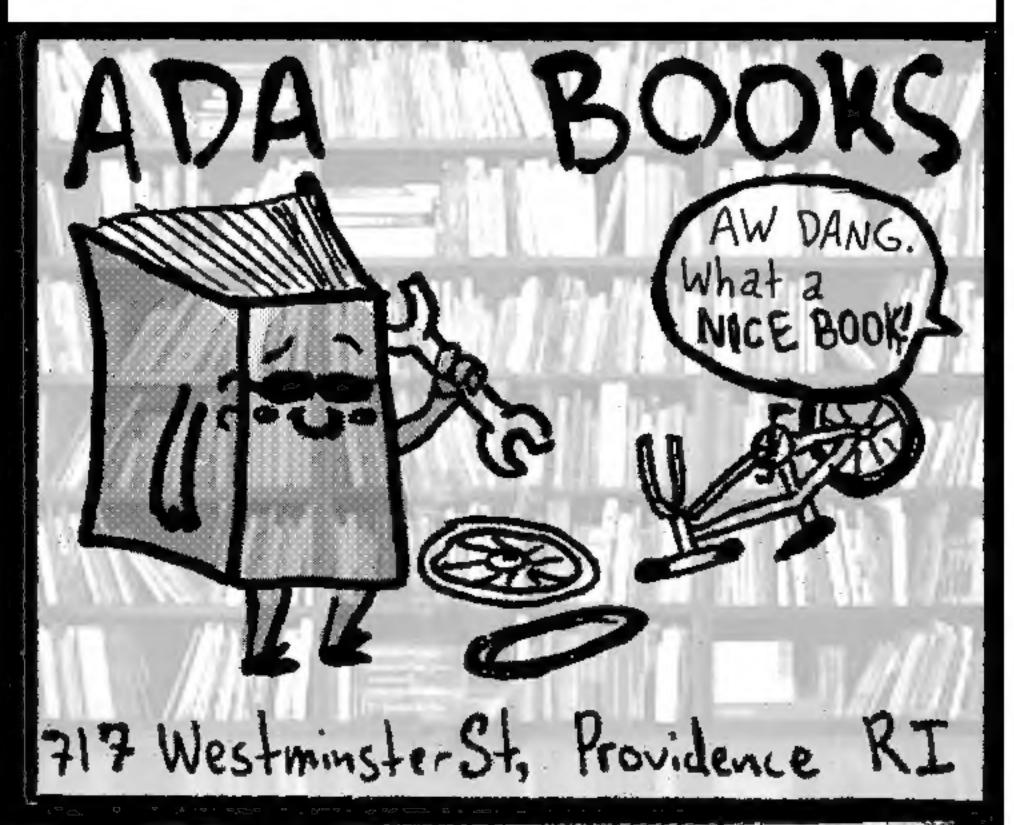
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TIPS & TRICKS

We've had a few requests to bring back our popular "Tips and Tricks" section. It's great to get feedback even if it's a barked order, which usually we're pretty good at disobeying (a direct order, that is). Anyway here's a tip right off the bat- Don't Always Do What You're Good At!

THE WAY OF THE SAMURA!

This is a cool trick from one of our readers, System Sally- when you're driving to the supermarket (or whatever) and you pull into the lot, just park in the first spot you see, regardless of how far it is from the store. Otherwise you waste time trying to find a spot, which is stressful and timewasteful. Probably if you park immediately and then walk you'll get to the store faster than if you had searched for (and found) the perfect spot right close to the entrance. Why fuss? Also you get a little exercise, that's nice. And when you do this and someone calls you on it, you get to say "Way of the Samurai" and how often do you get to say that?

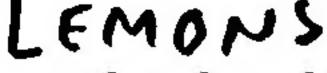
TUCK YOUR SHIRT IN

If it's cold, tuck your shirt in, you'll be a little warmer, and not just because you're a little embarrassed to look like a nerd with a tucked in shirt. It's because I don't know but it WORKS (a little bit). Also when you're wearing baggy and shapeless clothes, it's demotivational (in cold weather). And motivation is a sort of source of warmth.

SPEAKING OF MUTIUATION

Ay speaking of motivation, a new study shows that if you eat a lot of cruciferous vegetables (like broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, horseradish, bok choy, and kale), it healthies up your liver to such a degree that you need to drink more coffee to get zooted. BE WARNED! By no means should you be cutting down on your broccolli intake though, because it also helps you process other less helpful poisons (like certain carcinogens).

Oh, a weird other side of this is that, for unrelated reasons, you're more likely to dislike coffee (and cigarettes) if you also dislike cruciferous vegetables. Funny how that works out.... Oh but it doesn't mean that just because you don't like coffee you don't have to eat vegetables, Christina! You still have to. It's like Jim (Woodring) said that one time-"don't make the bomb weaker, make me stronger, amen".



Oh and speaking of fortitude, everyone knows that using a small amount of lemon is a good way to turn a regular glass of water into "restaurant water" but did you know that if you eat too much lemons it'll mess up your teeth (the same way that only eating in restaurants will mess up your personality- erosion into a crumbly stump)? So yes, when life hands you lemons, make lemonade. But if your main thing is lemonade, that's not healthy-try to get life to hand you other things, like vitamins, or coupons, or magazines, and if life keeps handing you lemons, say in a loud clear voice "I don't want these shitty lemons anymore!". There are a lot of situations in our society where we blame someone surrounded by lemons for not constantly drinking and enjoying lemonade, but if you think about it, that's messed up- we should be working to dismantle the lemon-handing infrastructure in this country. Peace everyone.





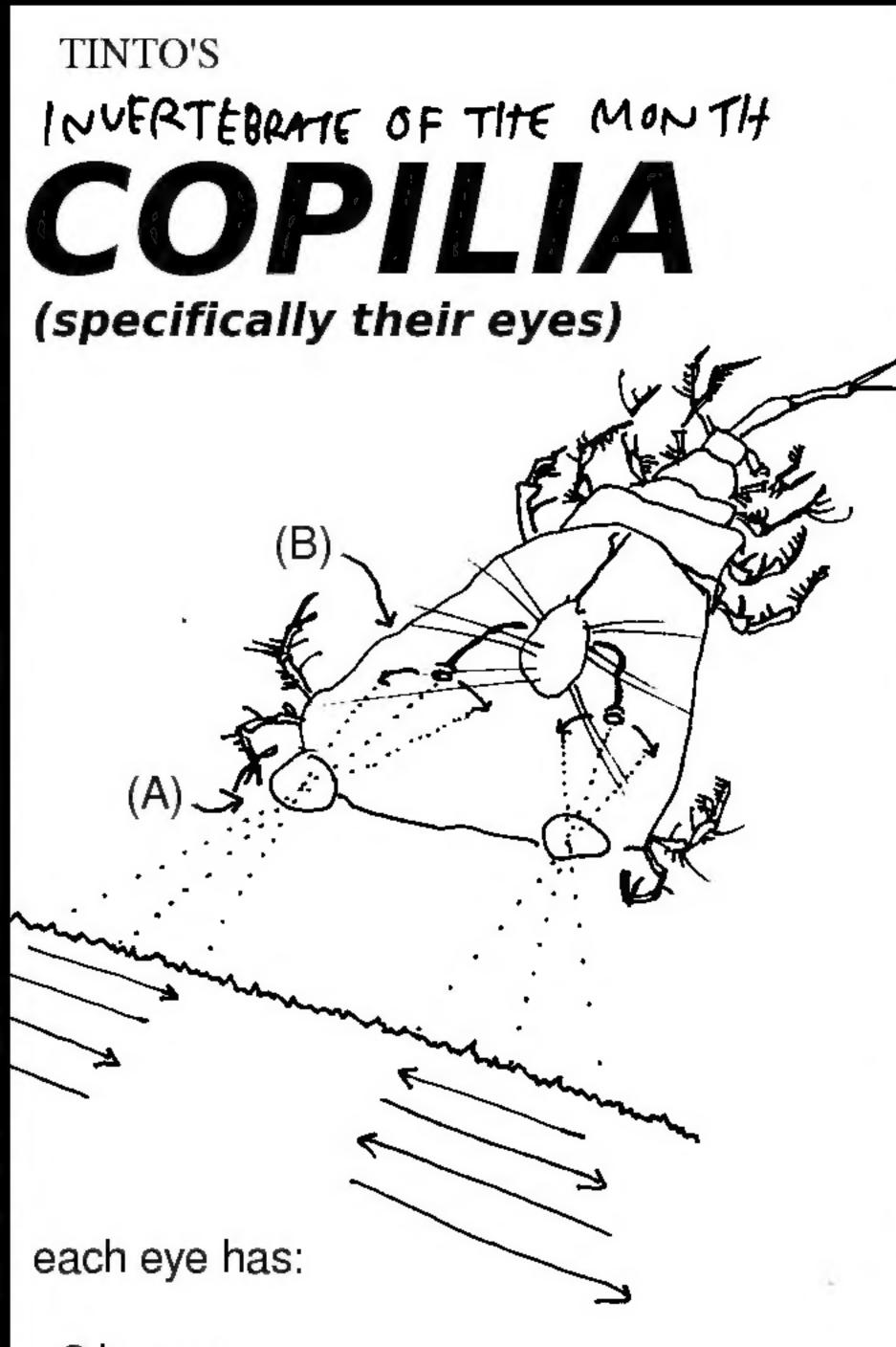
SOURCE WALL 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

AUFEYGGGBEKLQJCC OPLKXKUULCADOUHO BWTOASBOVHPAYRJB

SOURCE WALL is a randomly generated table of letters for use as a navigable matrix by the active reader in the creation of ciphers, codes, and, passwords, and/or as simple linguistic noise to aid in the creation of new words, names, and concepts. For disbelievers in astrology who see the benefit of being guided by a truly random block of text assigned to a specific time period, SOURCE WALL may prove especially useful.

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mothersnews.net/M2 G4 C6 J6



- 2 lenses

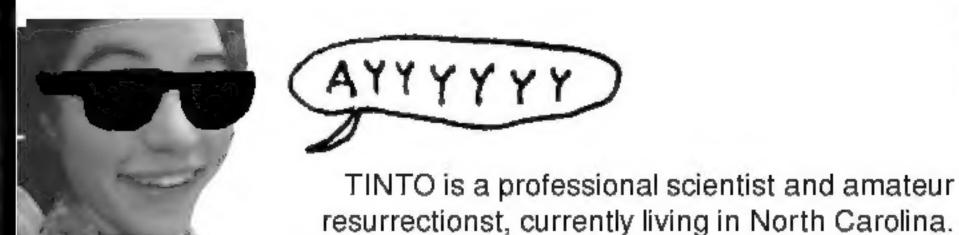
- one big one in the front (A) which stays still in the head
- one small one in the back (B) which runs back and forth on a track. left right left right left continuously
- 1 receptor

(our eyes have 1,250,000 receptors) so, no image for these guys, just light (on) or no light (off)

the back lens tracking back and forth effectively changes where the eye is pointing, left or right, so the animal just scans a horizontal line all day.

one totally unverified guess which i like a lot, is that copilia eats animals that swim up at night and down in the day, so it only has to scan a horizontal line because eventually its food will pass by and make a momentary blip in that line.

imagine that.



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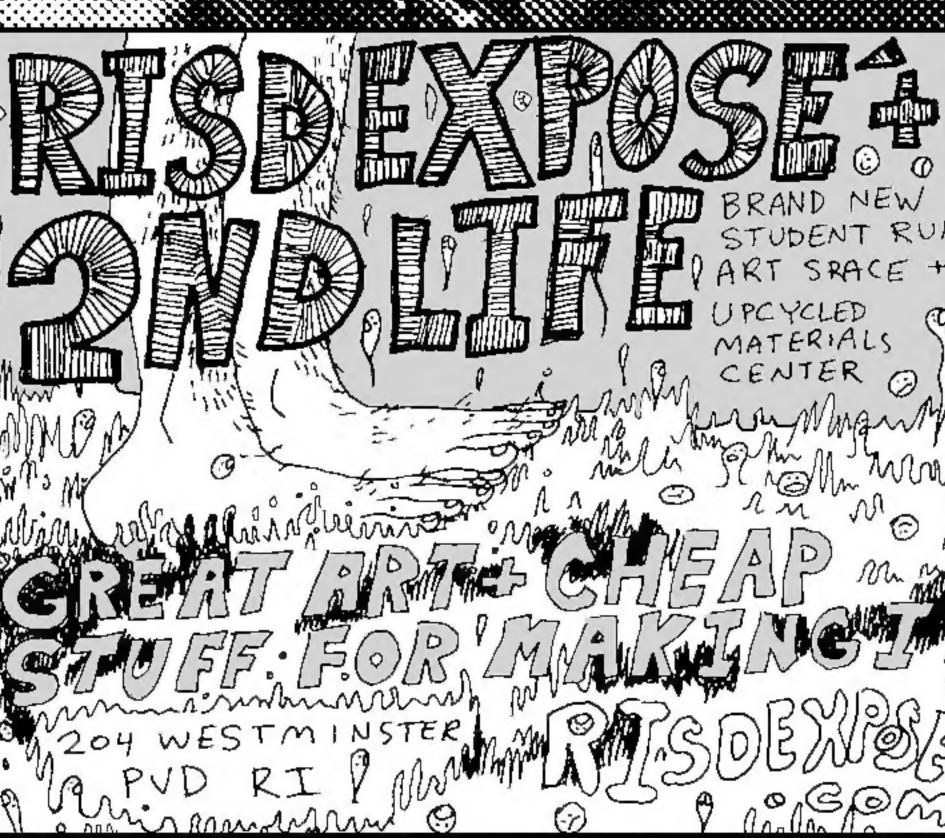
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COMPISS section

* excrusive *

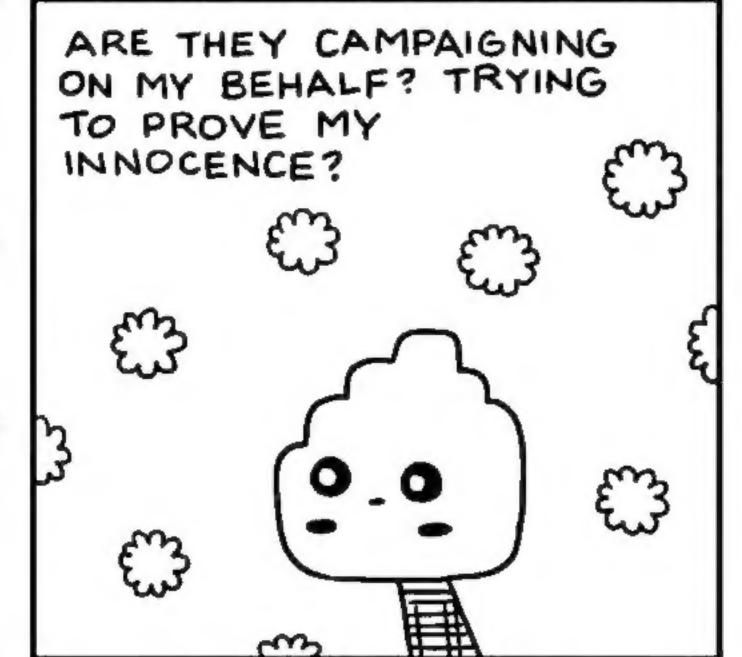
GRAVEYARD DUCKS by Mickey Zacchilli



MILITARY PRISON" MICHAEL DEFORGE

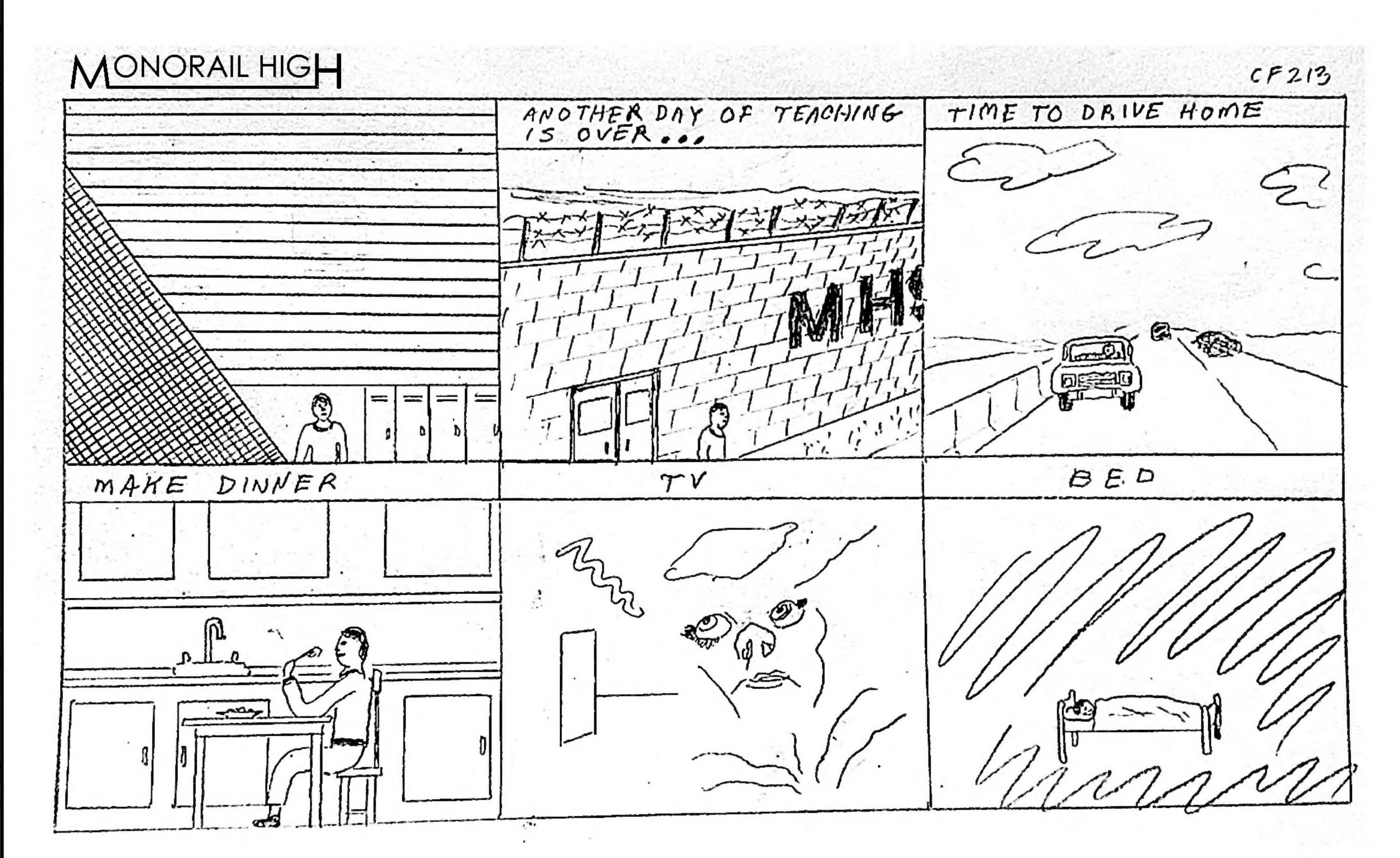


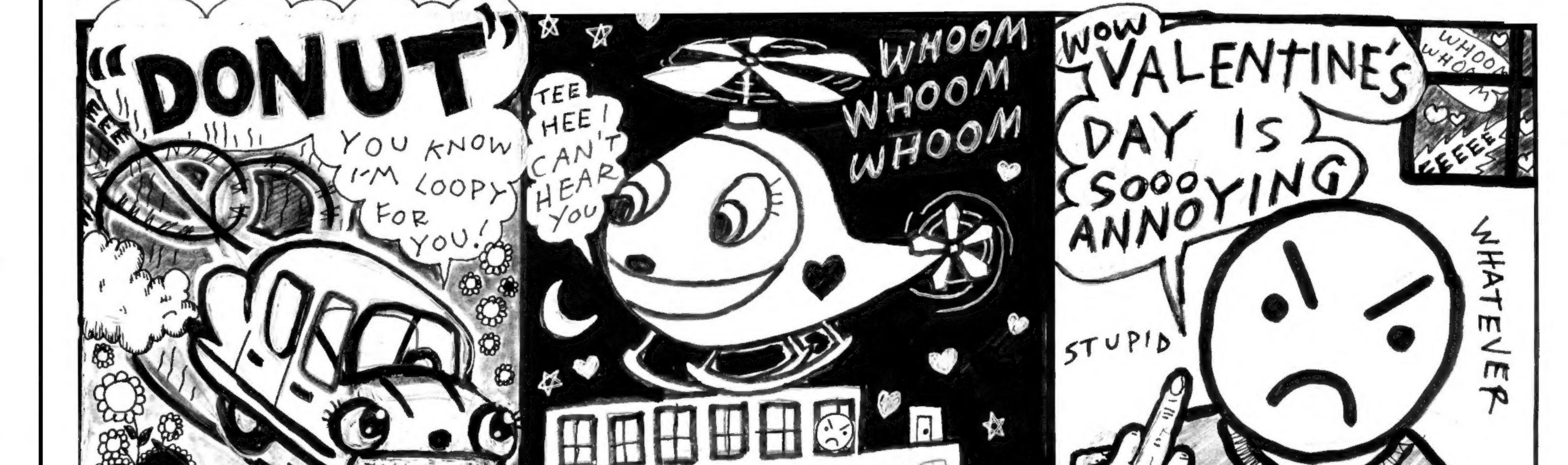
RATRADIO BY KATRINA FEBRUARY 2013





RANKING THEM FROM FAVORITE TO LEAST- FAVORITE: I. OLDEST BROTHER 2. MOM 3. SISTER 4. BABY 5. OLDER BROTHER 6. MY TWIN 7. STEPDAD 8. DAD 9. YOUNGER BROTHER











THE CONDUCTOR MADE AN INAUDIBLE ANNOUNCEMENT AND THE TRAIN TOOK A JARRING LEFT TURN. ALL SOUND CEASED AND AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT DARKNESS UNFURLED OUTSIDE THE WINDOWS.



THÉÂTRE DE CARTON by Charlotte DeSedouy





WITCH BEACH by Charles Forsman









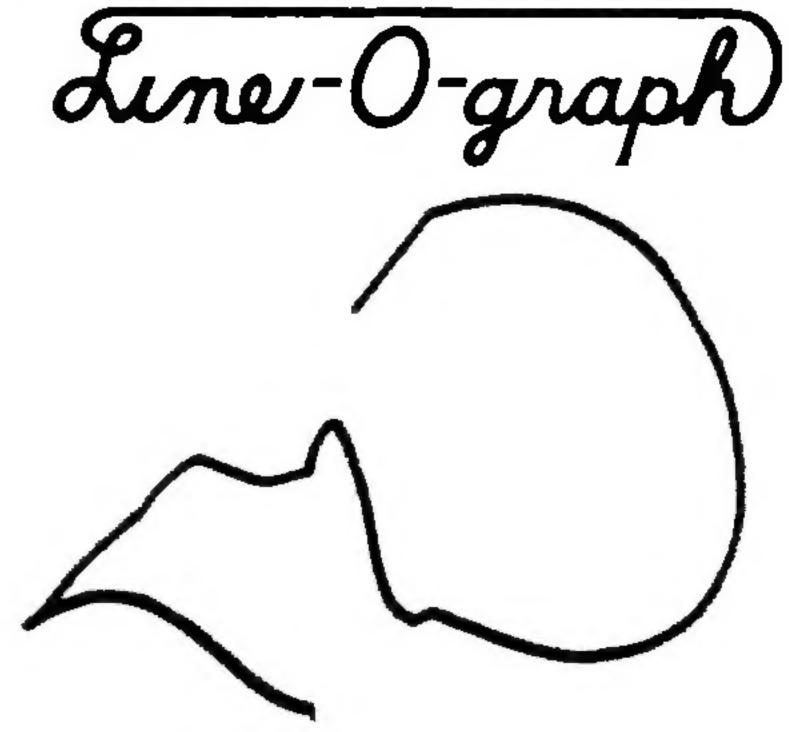
THE SAINT by Kate Schapira

That night the Pope dreamt that one of the Churches in Rome was falling down and that Dominic came and held it up ...

THE SAINT OF PERPETUATION

If I came with the wings and glow they'd recognize, I'd say, "Don't pay attention, my hero, my brother, my dear. Do anything."

If I were strong to stand out against all the other saints, I'd take away what they need to survive. A zigzag of profiles lines the hall, stern brows vibrate the air, waiting for proof. How will they walk down without what I've taken away? What kind of saint would do that to a boy? STANDARD STOPPAGE // VISIBLE RENDERING



Trace this line onto a separate piece of paper and use it to make a new (not huge) drawing!
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HOMEBASE: Underground

POWERS: X
WEAKNESS: Bomb

WANTS: Weapon

FEARS: X
PRECIOUS His self

OBJECTS:

JOB: Assasin

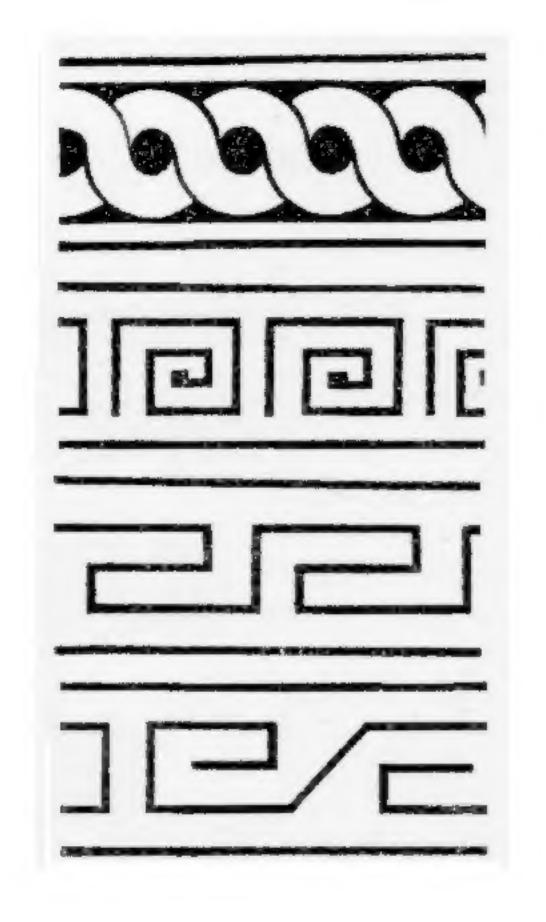
FRIENDS: Snake
ENEMIES: Everybody

ORIGIN STORY:

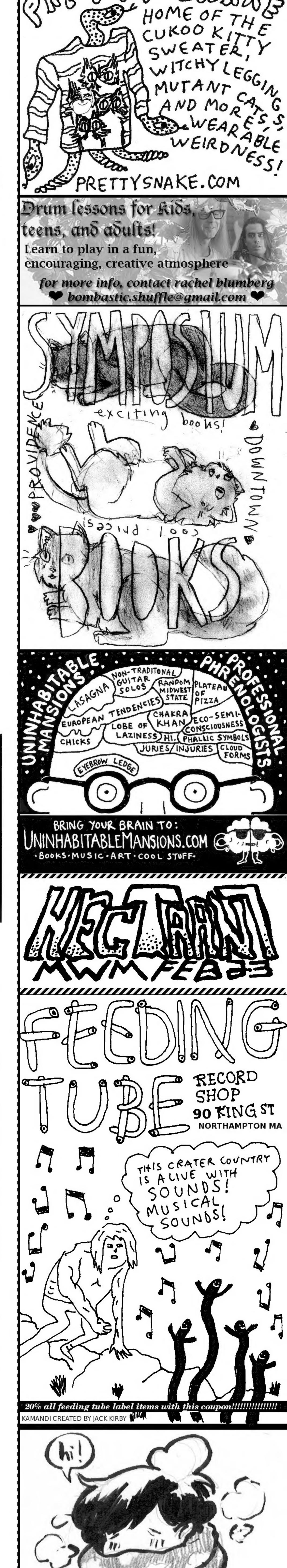
He was in a science lab. Something went wrong so he turned sides.

He has an axe, a pistol, a machine gun (2), hatchet, knife, a tail.

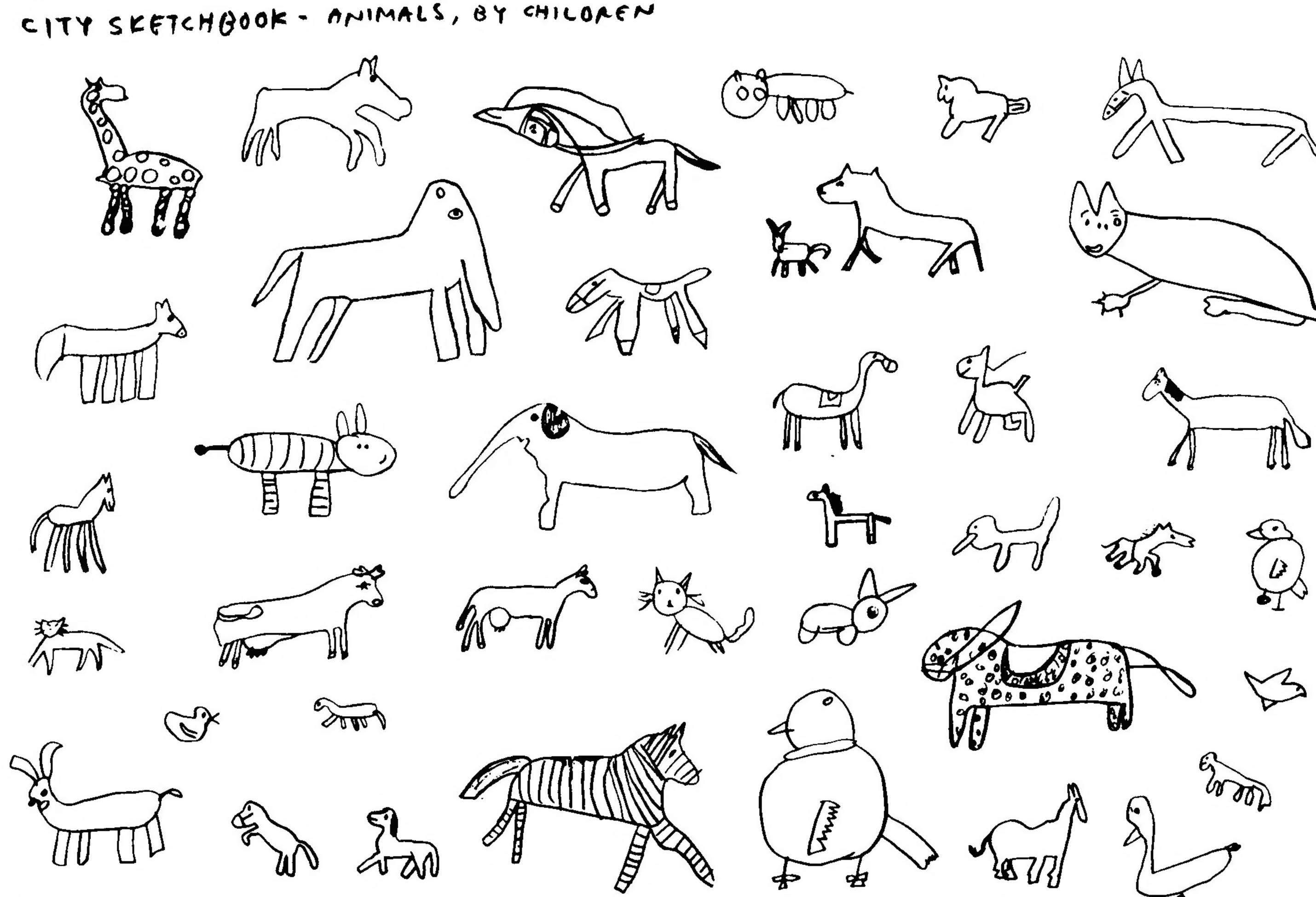




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Animals that most teachers would like (five to seven years)



Animals that few teachers would like (five to seven years)





FOR YOUR RECORDS

Did you like this issue?

- ☐ It was good
- Half-good, but I forget which half
 - Strongly disagree
- No basis

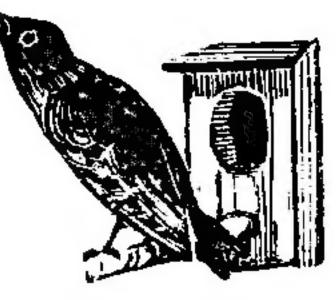
SCENE REPORT: BACH MARATHUM

Show of the year, 2012! This was last november and it was the first year of a to-be annual marathon celebration of the music of JS Bach. The show took place from 9pm to 7am at Manning Chapel here in Providence RI, and was organized through Community Music Works. What it was was MUSIC- a lonnning string of musicians performing works by and inspired by JS Bach, with a massive variety of approaches- from straight reads (spectrum from professional to enthusiast) to experimental rendition (spectrum from drone to gabber), all playing mostly 20-30 minute sets with little to no gaps between sets, with the sequence of performers carefully engineered for maximum interplay, commentary, and reflection. A few people stayed the entire time, many came and went, a few fell asleep (and a few snored), but at every moment there was a goodly sized audience of attentive listeners of all ages. I thought the classical musicians would be freaked out by the prospect of staying up all night to play a set at 3am to (possibly) no audience, but you know what? Those people are freaks too! And they ripped harder than most of the noisers.

The marathon was free and there was free coffee all night. Many brought snacks to share. Performers included members of: Work/Death, Tiny Hawks, Assembly of Light Choir, Whore Paint, Daily Life, the Terribles, Virusse, Paul & Maury, Timeghost, Spiritual Recess, Earth Enemy, Harry and the Potters, What Cheer Brigade, the Good Good, Downtown Boys, Manbeard, and Landed, plus LOTS of **incredible** classical performers. there are a fair amount of wonderful, magical, annual noise music festivals in America right now- one of these is: free, all ages, happens in a church, goes all night until daybreak, and is exclusively the music of Johannes Sebastian Bach. Cool!!!! See you next year!!

CORRECTIONS:

In the last issue we were extremely remiss in that amongst all the talk of doors and doorways we neglected to mention Shunryu Suzuki who said (in his modern classic "Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind") that "what we call 'I' is just a swinging door that moves when we inhale and when we exhale.". Sorry to leave you out Zuki! Tally that one a "brain fart". Also we forgot to shoutout a special thanks to our research staff in re: UK circle pits- thanks Maralie Armstrong & Robert Pickle, plus thanks Matthew C Carroll for Superman knowledge (knowledge about Superman). Oh, and it's come to our attention that chocolate milk has made the top ten a few times now. Well, chocolate milk is good! No correction there, none needed.



PSSST! Mothers Good Word this month is "GUTTURAL" (GUT ur ull). if you need a semi-public password with a 1 month expiration, please use Mothers Good Word



MATH THE BAND!